



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

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Division of Oil, Gas & Mining


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August 24, 2004

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

SUBJECT: Site Inspection; BEG Resources, LLC; Travertine #1 Mine, S/023/042, Juab County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 9, 2004
Time of Inspection: About 1:30 to 2:15 p.m.
Conditions: Clear, 90's
Participants: Bob Steele representing the operator; Tom Munson and Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

We wanted to see whether vegetation was adequate that some/all of the bond being held for revegetation could be released.

Observations:

There was some perennial/native annual vegetation cover (Photo 4), but I estimate that cover from non-weedy species was less than one percent over the entire site. I made ocular estimates of perennial/native annual cover on 12 meter-square areas, and the average cover was 1.5 percent. Photos 1 through 3 are typical of the site.

There were a few areas with some perennial grass seedlings, but although I looked for these seedlings in other areas, I did not find them. There was some reasonably good vegetation on the north side of the mine that appears to have volunteered from adjacent areas.

Site grading matches surrounding areas, and there was a fair amount of rock on the surface.

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BEG Resources, Travertine #1 Mine

S/023/042

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There were some cattle in the area, and there had been some grazing in the reclaimed area.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Cover from perennials or native annuals on the reclaimed area is less than 70 percent of the cover in adjacent undisturbed areas. I do not believe there are enough seedlings to provide the growth needed to meet the revegetation success standard, and I recommend that the operator reseed this fall immediately after scarifying or lightly ripping the surface. No bond should be released for revegetation.

Mr. Steele felt there were enough seedlings that reseeding should not be done yet. While I disagree with this assessment, it is the operator's option whether to reseed.

Mr. Steele indicated a good part of the site was once covered by a rock outcrop and had little vegetation. If this can be documented, it may be possible to decrease the success standard, but I doubt the standard would be reduced enough to make it possible to release the site at this time.

I do not believe cattle had had a major effect on vegetation, but the negative impacts might be greater if there were more perennial grasses. We understand from the BLM that the site was supposed to be fenced to keep cattle out, but this had not been done.

PBB:jb

cc: Bob Steele

Sheri Wysong, Fillmore BLM (UTU-072860)

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**ATTACHMENT
Photographs**

S/023/042, Traverine #1, BEG Resources

Inspection Dated: August 9, 2004; Report Dated: August 24, 2004



Photo 1. Most of the plants in Photos 1-3 are Russian thistle.



Photo 2.



Photo 3.



Photo 4. A perennial grass.